



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING on 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 18 August 2008, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Jennifer Peffer welcomed everyone to the meeting, with special reference to Robyn Gaspari, Guest Speaker and Janet Kennet from Mayfield Branch.

Devotions based on James 2: 14-26 followed the opening prayer. Having read about faith and deeds we were asked to consider Growing in Faith and Social Issues, and how they relate to one another.

SPEAKER: Robyn Gaspari from Australian Women's Coalition and Eastwood Christian Community Aid spoke on a wide range of topics affecting women: care-giving to sufferers with HIV AIDS, national plan to combat violence against women, equal pay, sex discrimination, parental leave and productivity. Seventy national women's organisations and four secretariats met in discussions in Broken Hill. Women were asking the Australian government to sign the protocol calling for the elimination of all forms of violence against women where it is felt a fresh approach is needed. To make any progress it is vital to work with the male community. The White Ribbon Campaign will see police in various States taking part, a sign of change. The campaign is also selecting young men as ambassadors to speak against family violence. Statistics on violence demonstrate that women are more likely to suffer than males.

Inequities of pay still exist and this has a direct effect on superannuation. Many grandparents are involved as carers, but there are overseas models which show countries directing a given proportion of taxation to support child care until school age is reached. Currently there is a review of the tax system and it has been pointed out that single pensioners are disadvantaged.

Late last year a number of ACW members took part in a survey on ageing and social inclusion. This survey confirms that many lonely people cannot access the support that is available to them. The need for healthy ageing through exercise, good food and medical check ups was emphasised, as was the release of acute beds by the provision of rehabilitation places for older people, suggesting that purpose built facilities could provide respite beds available on a short term basis.

Sr Joan Bird thanked Robyn for her informative talk.

PRESENT: 41 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 10 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Council Meeting on 16 June 2008 were confirmed on the motion of Winsome Penn and Julie Bryant.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Preparations for the 70th Anniversary of the Unit to be celebrated 15 September 2008 at Scots Church, Margaret Street are proceeding. Theme for the day is *Looking Back – Moving Forward*. Speakers on *Looking Back* are Edith Ridge and Joan Tong, while Pru Goward MP will address *Moving Forward*. Lyn Middleton will lead the closing devotions for the day. Registration will begin at 9.30 am, morning tea at 10.00 and the program at 10.30. Council members were urged to pay the \$25 cost for the day to confirm bookings and to lighten the load for Helen Richardson on the day. People willing to sing in a choir were encouraged to meet and discuss what is proposed.

2. President Profiles have been compiled and collated into a volume. Isabel Hewitt was thanked.

Time was given to Isabel to outline where her forthcoming travels would take her – a Celtic Pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland and northern England with a group organised through NSW Ecumenical Council. Nancy McLaren is to visit a number of African countries in connection with her work as Salvation Army Child Sponsorship officer. Lyn Middleton led prayer for travelling mercies, good health for both.

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3. Social Issues Convener position is still vacant. Members were asked to give consideration as to whether they could take the position on, or could recommend someone who could do the job of keeping us aware of issues needing our support.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the balance at the end of July was \$4599.31, including \$1075.40 received for FLC and \$2176.35 from Fellowship Day services. Moved Helen Richardson, seconded Lily Hanlon that the report be received and accounts ratified/passed for payment. Carried. Moved Helen Richardson, Seconded Denise Secomb that \$4000 be moved to the investment fund. Carried.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone was in attendance, her husband John recovering after a stroke. Her daughter-in-law is in remission - no news as to when bone marrow transplant might be done. Nola Dickson reported that she had heard from Mina Whybourne that Peg Blake had an operation to put cement into her spine and has been suffering intense pain. Nola spoke to her on Friday and found Peg to be brighter, walking with a frame. Pat Sutton is very ill. Prayers were requested for all these people.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that the World Community Day theme is **Great is Your Faithfulness**, and packing would follow Council meeting. Readings set down are Luke 7: 36-50, and Galatians 2: 15-21. Themes for 2009 Fellowship Day: *Our God is ever Faithful* and World Community Day: *Faith – Yesterday, today and tomorrow*. Seventeen returns have come in so far from Fellowship Day, indicating that over 700 people attended. Special Project is for Queensland Girls' Brigade for leadership sessions for young women in drought/flood areas, with mentors for support.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer told of Rachel Otto (McManus) and read an email from Imelda Aquino. Imelda will need to study some subjects independently because they are not offered when she needs to do them to complete her course.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton has not heard from Donna Bryan lately. Items for the ACWC Concert at 2.30 pm on Sunday 21 September 2008 at The Salvation Army Parramatta, corner of Smith and Phillip Streets will represent five nationalities. A tick sheet was sent around for an indication of contributions for afternoon tea.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin noted that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 13 October 2008. Email address for copy is newsette@aanet.com.au

Reports were received on the motion of Bev Elliott and Norma Dumbrell.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive: Minutes 20/6/08, 11/7/08

ACW VIC 2008 Annual Report

Jennifer Peffer – profile, photo

PWA NSW – delegates to ACW

Dorothy Woodhouse

Susan Kidd – re Margaret Andries

Cela Cooper – *Honouring Australian Church Women*

Barbars Lacy – re Shunila Ruth

ACW National News 7-9/2008; ACW ACT NEWSLETTER; Prison Fellowship Unbound

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

Invitations 70th celebrations

PWA – re President Elect 2009

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OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Shirley Wells told of the Foundation Day Luncheon at which the Governor had been present. Speaker was Anne Henderson, author of *Edith Lyons: Leading Lady to the Nation*.

NCW NSW and NCWA have approached the government to ban cluster bombs.

There is a free breast screening service on Level 3 at DJs Elizabeth Street store – appointments are necessary and may be arranged by phoning 9515 7842.

Dianne Madden from Camp Kookaburra spoke to NCW about support for kids in families with mental health issues – often dysfunctional families – and Camp Kookaburra has become an official organisation with NCW. It is planned to extend camps to secondary students, as well as for primary students.

GIRLS' BRIGADE: Ruth Dickenson read a testimony from a girl who has been finding that the skills learnt at Girls' Brigade are helping her as she moves beyond school. New companies are setting up even though some established ones are folding.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge reported that in June a speaker from the Benevolent Society - which dates from May 1813 – spoke of the work of 900 volunteers and 800 staff in working with socially disadvantaged. In July Daphne Low Kelly spoke of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism. *Platters for Peace* recipe books can still be ordered.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Hostess Day will be 10.00 am Monday 24 November 2008 at Salvation Army Headquarters. Newcastle will be 10.00 am Wednesday 26 November, and Wollongong 10.00 am Friday 28 November.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant told of promotion possibilities in churches and nursing homes

- mini-showcases to let people know what has been achieved through their contributions to the Bible Society over many years
- pearl parties to show pearl jewellery which is sold at 35% discount, 30% of total sales to Bible Society.
- *Jesus – all about life* with a V8 utility giving out New Testaments to young people.

There will be a stall at the 70th Anniversary celebration at Scots Church.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

Jennifer Peffer: PWA Conference, Dee Why, Beecroft, CWLA Conference & Mass

Jan Harrison: UCA Day Mission Support

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: At the request of Executive, Lyn Middleton had written letter of commendation to be sent to the organisers of World Youth Day and it was read to Council for approval.

CLOSE & BENEDICTION: Jennifer Peffer closed the meeting in prayer, which included remembering those not present, particularly because of illness, and asking blessing on the 70th Anniversary celebrations.

NEXT MEETING: 17 November 2008

CHAIRS: Baptist

MORNING TEA: Churches of Christ

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____